

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,771 to Aotake in view of U.S. Pat. 6,714,722 to Tsukidate and U.S. Pat. 5,950,164 to Takahashi; and Claims 16-25 were indicated as allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter.

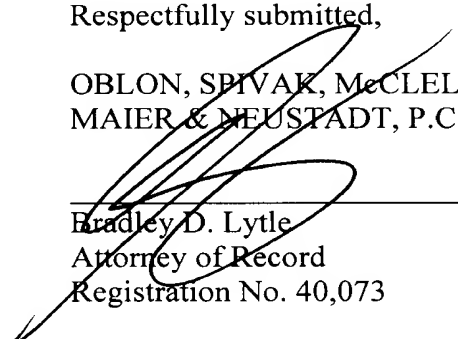
In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Claims 1-6, 9 and 10 are canceled, thereby rendering the above noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 moot.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Bradley D. Lytle  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 40,073

Andrew T. Harry  
Registration No. 56,959

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)